

- 19 -

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of detecting the orientation of a radiographic image  
5 represented by a digital signal representation characterised in  
that mathematical moments of said digital signal representation  
relative to different reference entities are calculated and that  
a decision on the orientation of said radiographic image is  
obtained on the basis of an extreme value (maximum, minimum) of  
10 the calculated moment(s).
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said moment is a cartesian  
moment which moment weights the digital signal representation by  
a function of at least one spatial coordinate x or y.  
15
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein said moment is calculated  
with respect to a cartesian co-ordinate system the axes of which  
are substantially parallel to the boundaries of said image.
- 20 4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said moments are two-  
dimensional moments.
5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said moments are one-  
dimensional moments obtained by projecting the digital signal  
25 representation of said image onto a predefined axis.
6. A method according to claim 5 wherein said axis is parallel to  
one of the boundaries of said image.
- 30 7. A method according to claim 1 wherein a moment is generated with  
respect to at least one predefined point.
8. A method according to claim 1 wherein said digital signal  
representation is a function of at least one derivative of an  
35 original digital signal representation.

- 20 -

9. A method according to claim 8 wherein said derivative is the first order edge gradient.

10. A method according to claim 1 wherein collimation area are  
5 excluded from said digital signal representation.

11. A method according to claim 1 wherein direct exposure area are excluded from said digital signal representation.

10 12. A method of orienting an object in an image represented by a digital signal representation into a desired orientation comprising the steps of  
- deriving orientation of said object relative to a reference entity,  
15 - subjecting the digital signal representation of said object to an orientation modifying geometric transformation to yield said desired orientation.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein said orientation is  
20 obtained according to claim 1.

14. A computer program product adapted to carry out the method of any of the preceding claims when run on a computer.

25 15. A computer readable medium comprising computer executable program code adapted to carry out the steps of any of the preceding claims.

30

35